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LB 26

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members of the body, as Senator Kremer pointed out, the Upper Republican is the area right now that is in a control area. The Upper Republican doesn't happen to be in my district but both the Middle Republican and the Lower Republican are. The mill levy that Senator Murphy is referring to, I come from an area that my people are going to be paying it and I am very much opposed to Senator Murphy's amendment. We need to control the water in various places of this state. The irrigation development that has developed over this state in the past several years has been an economic boon that my area and the entire state cannot ignore. We need to use every tool possible to continue that economic development and this is one method to help assure that that economic stability will be there. As Senator Cullan pointed out, there are some philosophical differences as to how we pay for these control areas. I happen to not have an irrigation well on my place, but since I live in an area that is highly developed with irrigation, the valuation of the irrigated land has raised the total valuation in my school district to such a point that has had to help me, so that personally I am very much opposed to any other method of paying for these controls except through the mill levy. I feel that even though I don't have irrigation, if I help pay for the control area to stabilize the economy in my area, it is going to help me on the school valuations and the various other valuations plus the dollars going through our community in the long run. Now I think Senator Schmit mentioned that sometimes these control areas maybe take in areas that aren't having a problem. I would like to remind the members of this body that the Ogallala aquifer encompasses a large portion of this state, and if one area using out of that Ogallala aquifer has a problem even though it is not a direct problem to any other area perhaps, eventually perhaps it could be. But to address the issue at hand right now, the people paying for this control are the people that are being controlled and I can't see anything more fair than that. I oppose Senator Murphy's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: I would like to ask a question of Senator Kremer first, then I would comment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer, will you respond?